

REMARKS:

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon Igarashi et al. (US 2001/0012777). Igarashi is cited as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Igarashi was published on August 9, 2001 and has the filing date of February 5, 2001. Without admitting that Igarashi qualifies as prior art against the present invention, Applicant hereby points out the differences between the present invention and Igarashi.

One of the features of the present invention is that a first node which initiates communication to a second node also initiates establishment of a security association with the second node without waiting for a response communication, such as a binding update, from the second node. As discussed in the present specification, conventionally, a security association is established by the second node, subsequent to an initiation of communication by the first node, after a communication path between them is confirmed. In other words, in the conventional scheme, an establishment of security association does not performed until after a communication path is confirmed. Of course, no data can be exchanged between the first and second nodes until after a security association is established between them. In the present invention, however, the first node that initiates communication also initiates establishment of a security association without waiting for any response communication from the second node. Thus, the present invention reduces packet latency introduced by authentication and security association establishment processes.

It seems that the Examiner is confused with an establishment of a security association and an update of binding information. They are in fact different operations. Igarashi only discusses an update of biding information; however, there is nothing in Igarashi that discloses or teaches that an establishment of a security association is initiated by a first node before receiving a response from the second node. In fact, Igarashi is totally silent about a security association. Igarashi has some discussion on authenticating a node to a network when the node is trying to log on the network. However, authenticating a node to a network is not the subject matter of the present invention. Please note that a security association has to do with two nodes trying to communicate with each other via a network. It is therefore clear that the present invention should be allowable over Igarashi.

Furthermore, the above feature of the present invention is not disclosed or taught by any of the other cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention should be allowable over any of the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadashi Horie", is written over a horizontal line.

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